

War Protesters Claim Harassment

FBI Accused of 'Terror, Abduction'

By Jean R. Hailey

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An antiwar group based in Washington held a press conference yesterday and accused the FBI of "terror," abduction and "wild offers of pay-offs" for information about the March 1 bombing of the Capitol.

At least 17 members of the group, including Rennie Davis of the Chicago Seven, said they were harassed by dozens of FBI agents who they said have participated in arm-twisting, house raids without warrants, and verbal intimidation. Leonard Weinglass, an attorney for the group, said affidavits have been signed to those claiming they were abused and will be notarized for presentation to U.S. Attorney Thomas A. Flannery in an effort to get a court order halting the FBI's activities.

In the meantime, he said, he had asked for a meeting with J. Edgar Hoover, director of the FBI. A spokesman for Weinglass said he was turned down late yesterday afternoon and was told to write a letter, instead, to Hoover.

A spokesman for Hoover offered "no comment" to queries about the possibility of such a meeting or whether the complaints were justified.

Coalition of Groups

The group, which calls itself the Mayday Movement and is planning an anti-Vietnam war demonstration in Washington at the beginning of May, is made up of a broad coalition of peace groups, including the Students and Youths for a People's Peace, and the People's Coalition for Peace and Justice. Stressing nonviolence, it functions at 1209 Vermont Ave. NW.

Yesterday, Weinglass cited a number of incidents in which staff members of the movement said they were accosted by FBI agents when they left the building and were subjected to severe questioning.

One, Larry E. Canada, was forced into his own car in an alley between 14th Street and Vermont Avenue at 3:30 p.m. last Friday by two agents who held him captive for 45 minutes while they drove him around in the area, Weinglass

said. While he was being questioned, Canada was offered \$10,000 cash for "leads to suspects in the Capitol bombing" and was told, "we'll go to any lengths to solve it," Weinglass added.

Rennie Davis, a national coordinator for the people's coalition, was cornered by two agents on the parking lot across from the movement's offices at 4 p.m. that same day, Weinglass said.

Davis. Allegations

The agents twisted Davis' arm behind his back and asked questions for 15 minutes, although he protested that he had to pick up some children at a day-care center and would be glad to talk to them later, the attorney said. Davis added that they offered "to set me up for the rest of my life if I cooperated."

Davis said later, in response to questions, that the movement and its participating groups have never been involved in bombings.

Of the Capitol bombing, he said movement members did not necessarily condone it but understood why it may have

happened because of the "violence in Vietnam." He said he thought they were being questioned because "we're outspoken protesters against the war."

He added that while questions by the FBI centered on the Capitol bombing, it was felt the "intense harassment" also was aimed at hindering the May antiwar campaign.

Weinglass said the group would seek legal action against the FBI on the grounds of violation of the constitutional rights of those being "harassed" by the continual questioning.

"We have no complaint on the right of the FBI to investigate the bombing, but this has been far exceeded and has become criminal activity," he declared.

Weinglass was one of the attorneys representing the Chicago Seven, who were charged with crossing state lines to incite riots during the 1968 Democratic National Convention. Davis was one of five of the seven convicted last month on the charge.

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